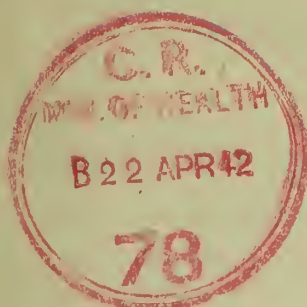


LIBRARY



CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER, 1939.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29087764>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., of Lowden Lodge, Chippenham, has been Medical Officer of Health since 1st June, 1938.

Dr. Broomhead in addition holds the position of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire and Medical Officer of Health for Chippenham Borough and to the Calne Borough.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:-

COLONEL W. J. POWELL, C.I.E., M.D., D.P.H., has been acting Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer since October, 1939, owing to the absence of Dr. Broomhead on active service.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR:-

E. W. STEVENS, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.S.E. who also holds the posts of Building and Sanitary Surveyor and Waterworks Manager.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS, &c.:-

G. E. WILLIAMS, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

H. J. TAYLOR, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report
for the year ending December, 1939.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers
and Staff of the Council for their valuable assistance.

Statistics and Social Conditions
of the area.

Areas (in acres)	86,034
Population (modified figure).....	21,520
No. of in-habited houses (end of 1939 according to Rate Books).....	5,604
Rateable value (1st April 1940).....	£95,720
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£405

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are
agriculture, stone quarrying at Box and Corsham, and glove
making in Corsham.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	126	125	251
Illegitimate.	5	6	11
	<u>131</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>262</u>

Birth rate..... 12.1 per 1000.
 Birth rate for E. & W..... 15.0 per 1000.

Still Births -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	8	7	15
Illegitimate.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>15</u>

Rate per 1000 total births 55.9 per 1000.

Deaths. -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	126	116	242

Death rate..... 11.2 per 1000
 Death rate for E & W..... 12.1 per 1000

Deaths of Infants under one year -

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	10	5	15
Illegitimate.	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>

Death rate of Infants under one year of age -

All Infants per 1000 Live Births..... 59.7

Death rate for E & W..... 50.0

Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate
 Births..... 58.3

Illegitimate Infants per 1000
 Illegitimate Live Births 90.9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1	2
Bronchitis	3	5	8
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	1
T.B. of respiratory system	3	6	9
Other Tuberculosis	3	1	3
Cancer	22	18	40
Peptic Ulcers	4	1	4
Appendicitis	2	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other Liver Diseases	1	1	2
Aneurism	1	1	1
Other circulatory disease	11	11	22
Other digestive disease	2	2	4
Heart Disease	29	31	60
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	3	5
Other Puerperal Disease	1	2	2
Congenital Debility & Premature Births	5	6	11
Senility	7	3	10
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	6	7
Diabetes	2	4	6
Suicide	1	1	1
Other violence	9	4	13
Other defined diseases	10	8	18
Ill-defined or not known	1	1	1
Diarrhoea, under two years	2	1	2
Diphtheria	1	1	2
Influenza	1	2	3
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Total	126	116	242

SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING 1939.

Name of School.	Period of Closure. (inclusive dates).	Reason of Closure.
North Wraxall.	From 23.1.39. to 27.1.39.	Influenza.
Yatesbury.	From 31.1.39. to 17.2.39.	Whooping Cough.
Yatton Keynell.	From 6.2.39. to 24.2.39.	Chicken Pox.
Colerne.	From 13.2.39. to 17.3.39.	Whooping Cough.
Christian Malford.	From 20.2.39. to 6.4.39.	Whooping Cough.
West Kingston.	From 2.3.39. to 3.3.39.	Influenza.
Bremhill.	From 1.5.39 to 12.5.39.	Whooping Cough

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	29
Diphtheria	...	...	...	20
Pneumonia	...	...	...	11
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4
Typhoid	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3

During the year an epidemic of Diphtheria in Sutton Benger and the villages round about caused some anxiety.

The first case reported was on December 14th when the Senior School Mistress was admitted to the Chippenham Isolation Hospital. Before the end of the year eight more cases were reported, of which one child lived in Seagry and one in Draycot Cerne. Both attended the Sutton Benger School. Three of these eight were adults, one was the Junior School Mistress, one the uncle of an affected child and another the mother.

There was a short lull of a week from December 22nd and it was hoped that all was well, but cases started again and up to the end of January 25 cases had occurred. A nurse lent by the County M.O. H. was of great assistance.

All contacts were swabbed. At the beginning of the epidemic only one of these gave a positive result, but later on several carriers were reported. One boy who had a cleft palate remained a carrier for several months.

The local milk supplies proved on examination to be safe.

Routine disinfection was carried out in all cases.

It would seem that the Senior School Mistress was the fons et origo mali, but how she picked up the disease could not be ascertained.

There were two deaths out of a total of 26 cases. One of these was a boy who fell shortly after Christmas but did not come under treatment for some days later. The other case was a late one - a child, the son of a local milk dealer whose premises had been suspect and had been thoroughly disinfected, was not brought up for immunisation when the other children in the village were done as the day was wet. He developed the disease in a virulent form in February and died in hospital.

Another small outbreak with 4 cases occurred in the neighbouring village of Hilmarton in December, just before the Sutton Benger epidemic started. No connection could be traced.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service was asked to help in the middle of January and readily assented. A party of doctors of Oxford started work in the area on January 23rd.

In Sutton Benger and Christian Malford between 90% and 95% of the children were schicked and where necessary immunised.

The Hilmarton Parish was also visited but here unfortunately only about 60% of the children were permitted by their parents to be immunised.

W A T E R S U P P L I E S .

The details of the Water Supplies afforded in each Parish were given in the previous report and with the exception of the inclusion of the usual data it appears unnecessary to repeat the details in this report.

Mention, however, should be made of the good progress being made with the Regional Water Scheme and it is the intention to give a comprehensive report on the Scheme and its layout together with a map showing the Region concerned in a future report.

WIDDENHAM WATER SUPPLY.

1939.	Gaugings. <u>gallons per day.</u>	Consumption. <u>gallons per day.</u>	Rainfall. <u>Inches.</u>
January.	537,492	63,069	4.59
February.	534,857	70,138	.94
March.	517,680	70,764	1.76
April.	437,407	76,009	1.31
May.	455,645	87,794	2.31
June.	337,950	95,710	2.19
July.	212,238	88,726	4.01
August.	175,308	83,663	2.20
September.	174,017	100,480	.84
October.	133,650	99,220	3.60
November.	198,731	95,885	4.01
December.	518,267	91,383	1.56
			<u>29.32</u>

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Parish.	Source.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Biddestone.	Springs (Mill supply)			1
Box.				
Ditteridge.	Well			2
Townsend.	Spring.			1
Washwells.	Spring.			2
Box, Corsham & Colerne.	Hungerford Wood Springs.	5		3
Bromhill.	Well & springs			
Foxham.	at Stockham Marsh	2		5
East Tytherton.	Springs at Wick			3
Foxham.	Hill.		1	
	New Springs.			
Corsham Water Company.		1		1
Hillwarton.	Springs at Catcombe.	1		
Kington Langley.	Chippenham Borough Supply.	2		
Pewsham.	Springs at Derry Hill.			1
		11	1	19

NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOUSE WATER SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Parish.	Source.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.
Charlcutt.	Well			1
Elivers Field, Merhill.	Bore.	1		
		1		1

NUMBER OF PRIVATE WATER SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Parish.	Source.	Fit.	Unfit.	Suspect.	No. of Properties.
Bremhill.	Well.			1	1
Box.	"			1	1
Christian Malford.	"		1		1
Grittleton.	"			1	1
Heddington.	"			1	1
Hilmarton.	"			1	1
Laagley Burrell	"			1	{ 2
Stonou.	"			1	
Wettleton.	"		1		1
North Wraxall.	"			1	1
Sutton Benger.	3 Wells. 1 Bore.		1	2 1	3 1
			3	11	14

All samples for Bacteriological Examination and Chemical Analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

NEW WATER SERVICES.

Total number of premises connected to the Council's mains during the year 1939:-

<u>Parish</u>	
Box.....	5
Chippenharn Without.....	2
Christian Malford.....	2
Colerne	1
Corsham.....	10
Kington Langley.....	2
Kington St. Michael.....	7
Langley Burrell Without.....	2
Rowshan.....	1
32	

DAILY CONSUMPTION.

Average daily Consumption:-	1939.
Box (excluding supply from Washwell and Ditteridge).....	27,709 gallons.
Colerne.....	3,343 "
Corsham.....	25,349 "
Kington Langley	10,412 "
Kington St. Michael.....	3,302 "
Neeton	28,800 "

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A comprehensive statement was made in the previous report respecting the methods and means of drainage in the sundry Parishes in the District, and as there has been no material alteration during the past year it appears irrelevant for the details to be reiterated.

There is, however, one exception and this refers to the new Sewerage and Disposal Works now being executed at Corsham. It is not proposed, at the moment, since the works are only in course of construction, to describe the details of the Scheme. Hence it is proposed to give details in a subsequent report.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There was no specific case in which it was considered necessary to take any action to check the pollution of any river or stream.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This essential service of Public Health administration, which was originally undertaken by several individual contractors is now under the control of one Contractor.

The household refuse is now collected in a properly designed Scavenging Vehicle and periods of collection vary according to the Urban or Rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly intervals.

The only Parishes from which refuse is not collected by the Council are Castle Combe, Grittleton and Stanton St. Quintin. The Parishes of Nettleton and Sutton Benger were included in the area of collection during the current year.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like are used for the deposition of refuse. Tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of any new tips provides an opportunity for a method of controlled tipping to be adopted.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints have been received concerning offensive trades. All fish frying premises in the district have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1923.

There are no premises in this district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

RAT AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACTS.

During the year under review, the refuse tips in this district have been baited with a proprietary rat poison by the Council's employees.

In addition the Council engaged the services of a professional Rat Catcher to bait and attend to the Council's refuse tips twice yearly, and I am pleased to report that our refuse tips are now reasonably free from vermin.

HOUSING.

The information regarding Housing Statistics is set out to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 1728.

1939.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 63
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. 590

(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1)above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932..... 63
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.. 563

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 54

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 45

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	1939.
(a) By owners.	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners.	-
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	-
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	10
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	-
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	-

1939.

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	42
(2) Number of families dwelling therein.	42
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein.	261
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	11
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	68
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	-
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	-

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council has built 228 houses, situated in the following Parishes:-

Parish.	No.
Biddestone.	2
Box.	30
Bremhill.	7
Calne Without.	20
Cherhill.	18
Christian Malford.	10
Compton Bassett.	4
Corsham.	68
Heddington.	6
Hilmarton.	11
Kington Langley.	12
Kington St. Michael.	6
Lacock.	20
Nettleton.	2
Sutton Benger.	<u>11</u>
	<u>228</u>

The cesspool at the Nolands Council Houses was converted into a septic tank, and a filter bed constructed, following complaints received that a nuisance existed in the ditch into which the effluent from the cesspool discharged. Since this work has been completed no complaints have been received and the works are functioning satisfactorily.

External painting was only necessary on the four Council Houses at Yatesbury.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT 1923.

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.

Parish.	New Dwelling Houses.	Alterations & Garages. Additions to Existing Houses.	Miscel- laneous.
Biddestone.	-	1	-
Box.	6	5	1
Bremhill.	-	-	-
Calne Without.	-	1	1
Castle Combe.	-	2	-
Cherhill.	4	6	2
Chippenham Without.	-	-	2
Christian Malford.	-	-	1
Colerne.	-	1	-
Compton Bassett.	-	-	-
Corsham.	32	3	4
Grittleton.	-	-	-
Heddington.	-	-	1
Hilmarton.	-	1	-
Kington Langley.	-	1	-
Kington St. Michael.	-	-	-
Lacock.	2	3	2
Langley Burrell	-	-	-
Without.	30	-	2
Nettleton.	-	-	1
North Wraxall.	-	3	-
Pewsham.	-	-	1
Stanton St. Quintin.	2	-	1
Sutton Benger.	4	-	-
Yatton Keynell.	-	-	-
	<u>80</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>18</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of Farms on Register..... 505

Summary of Work carried out.

Total number of farms inspected
during the year..... 61

Farms requiring structural alterations,
cleansing, etc..... 36

Farms having structural alterations
and cleansing completed..... 52

Farms found to be in a satisfactory
condition 25

Total number of inspections 172

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number of such premises are as follows:-

6 Registered.

5 Licenced.

Parish.	Registered.	Licenced.
Box.	1	-
Calne Without.	-	1
Colerne.	-	1
Corsham.	3	-
Grittleton.	1	1
Heddington (Slaughter House)	-	1
Heddington (Knacker's yard)	-	1
Lacock.	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total.	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

During the year 278 visits were made for the purpose of
examining carcasses.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The extent of disease in animals slaughtered locally is shown in the table below, together with details of carcasses examined.

Carcases.	No. inspected.
Bovines.	162
Pigs.	349
Sheep.	176
Calves.	<u>11</u>
	<u>698</u>

The following carcasses, organs, etc., were condemned as being unfit for the food of man and in every case the meat was voluntarily surrendered, and with the exception of Bovine carcasses, was burnt by the Council's employees.

The Council have arranged with the Bath City Council for Bovine carcasses to be burnt at their Destructor Works. The fee charged by that Authority for such services is ten shillings per carcase.

BOVINES.	Tuberculosis.	5 Forequarters.
		3 Stomachs and Intestines.
		17 Heads.
		5 Livers.
		36 Sets of Lungs.
		4 Mesenteries.
		1 Viscera.
	Generalised Tuberculosis.	3 Carcasses.
	Cirrhosis.	8 Livers.
	Distomatosis.	4 Livers.
		1 Set of Lungs.
	Actinomycosis.	1 Head.
		1 Tongue.
	Cavernous Angioma.	1 Liver.
	Melanosis.	1 Set of Lungs.

Pyæmic Abscess.	3 Livers.
Abscess.	1 Set of Lungs.
Carcinoma.	1 Liver.
Induration.	1 Udder.
Tumour.	1 Liver.

PIGS.

Tuberculosis.	32 Heads.
	2 Sets of Lungs.
	16 Mesenteries.
	2 Visceras.

Pleurisy.	1 Set of Lungs.
-----------	-----------------

Pneumonia.	1 Set of Lungs.
------------	-----------------

Pericarditis.	1 Heart.
---------------	----------

Cirrhosis.	1 Liver.
------------	----------

Abscess.	1 Forequarter.
----------	----------------

SHEEP:	Strongylus Rufescens.	3 Sets of Lungs.
--------	-----------------------	------------------

Emaciation & Oedema.	1 Carcase.
----------------------	------------

Echinococcus Veterinorum.	1 Liver.
---------------------------	----------

Pericarditis.	1 Heart.
---------------	----------

Tenuicollis Cyst.	1 Omentum.
-------------------	------------

Degenerated Cysts.	2 Livers.
--------------------	-----------

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Visits to Houses in connection with Systematic Housing Inspections.	590
Houses Repaired.	64
Council House Inspection.	503
New Building Inspections.	480
Premises connected with water mains of Council.	32
Water Samples secured for Analyses.	52
Waterworks, Main Extensions, etc., Inspections.	420
Privy Vaults converted to Pail Closets.	7
Privy Vaults converted to Water Closets.	-
Earth Closets to Water Closets.	3
New Pail Closets.	15
New Water Closets.	97
New Drainage Systems provided to old premises.	35
Inspections of Sewage Works, sewer extensions and drainage systems.	126
Inspections of Refuse Tips.	45
Inspections of Farms and Dairies.	172
Slaughter house Inspections.	278
Overcrowding complaints dealt with.	106
Factory and Workshops Inspections.	13
Notices, Letters, etc., sent out.	3279
Statutory Notices served.	7
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases.	33
Nuisances' Inspections.	84
Inspections under the Petroleum Act, 1926.	33

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. J. POWELL.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

